REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE GROUP ART UNIT 1754

NIP-256

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

K. ANAZAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1754

Serial No. 10/078,347

Examiner: P. LISH

Filed: February 21, 2002

For:

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE

DECONTAMINATION METHOD AND APPARATUS

REPLY

MS AF Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

January 6, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

U.S. Serial No. 10/078,347

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REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection. Claims 2, 5-6, and 8 are now pending.

Claims 2, 5-6, and 8 were noted as containing allowable subject matter on page 3 of the Office Action. Accordingly, these claims have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their respective base claims. Thus, claims 2, 5-6, and 8 are believed to be in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 32,846 Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C. 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370 Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 684-1120 Date: January 6, 2005